

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER
5 EDUCATION TO WAIVE TUITION FOR A CHILD OF A FULL-TIME STATE EMPLOYEE WITH A MINIMUM
6 OF 7 YEARS OF CONSECUTIVE STATE SERVICE IF THE CHILD IS BETWEEN 18 AND 22 YEARS OF AGE,
7 IS ENROLLED FULL-TIME IN AN UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN A UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM,
8 AND MAINTAINS A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 2.8 OR HIGHER; AMENDING SECTION
9 20-25-421, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

10

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12

13 **Section 1.** Section 20-25-421, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"20-25-421. Charges for tuition -- waivers.** (1) The regents may prescribe tuition rates,
15 matriculation charges, and incidental fees for students in institutions under their jurisdiction.

16 (2) The regents may:

17 (a) waive nonresident tuition for selected and approved nonresident students, not to exceed at
18 any unit 2% of the full-time equivalent enrollment at that unit during the preceding year; however, when
19 necessary, tuition may be waived in excess of 2% of unit enrollment for nonresident students who enroll
20 under provisions of any WICHE-sponsored state reciprocal agreements that provide for the payment, when
21 required, of the student support fee by the reciprocal state;

22 (b) waive resident tuition for students at least 62 years of age;

23 (c) waive tuition and fees for:

24 (i) persons of one-fourth Indian blood or more who have been bona fide residents of Montana for
25 at least 1 year prior to enrollment in the Montana university system;

26 (ii) persons designated by the department of corrections pursuant to 52-5-112;

27 (iii) residents of Montana who served with the armed forces of the United States in any of its wars
28 and who were honorably discharged from military service;

29 (iv) children of residents of Montana who served with the armed forces of the United States in any
30 of its wars and who were killed in action or died as a result of injury, disease, or other disability incurred

1 while in the service of the armed forces of the United States;

2 (v) the spouses or children of residents of Montana who have been declared to be prisoners of war
3 or missing in action; or

4 (vi) the spouse or children of a Montana national guard member who was killed or died as a result
5 of injury, disease, or other disability incurred in the line of duty while serving on state active duty;

6 (d) waive tuition charges for qualified survivors of Montana firefighters or peace officers killed in
7 the course and scope of employment. For purposes of this subsection, a qualified survivor is a person who
8 meets the entrance requirements at the state university or college of the person's choice and is the
9 surviving spouse or child of any of the following who were killed in the course and scope of employment:

10 (i) a paid or volunteer member of a municipal or rural fire department;

11 (ii) a law enforcement officer as defined in 7-32-201; or

12 (iii) a full-time highway patrol officer.

13 (e) waive tuition for any child of a full-time state employee with a minimum of 7 years of
14 consecutive state service if the child:

15 (i) is between 18 and 22 years of age;

16 (ii) is enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program in a unit of the university system; and

17 (iii) maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or higher.

18 (3) If funds are available after the waivers provided for in subsection (2), the regents may waive
19 tuition for up to 5,000 credits each academic year in accordance with the national guard education benefit
20 program provided for in 10-1-121."

21
22 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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